



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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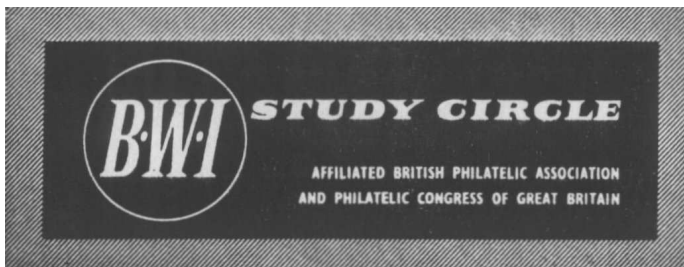
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OBJECTS

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2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

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FOR YOUR DIARY

1971

Sept. 18th Autumn Meeting 3 p.m.

Nov. 17th Evening Meeting 6 p.m.

1972

Apr. 15th Annual General Meeting 3.p.m

Meetings are held in the B.P.A. Board Room at 446 Strand, London. WC2R ORA unless otherwise stated.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Seventeenth Anniversary Meeting was held in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association at 446 Strand London WC2R ORA on Saturday, April 17th. 1971, at 3 p.m. It was attended by thirteen members including a new member - Mr. D. E. Ledger - who was making his first visit. The chair was taken by the President who extended a warm welcome to all. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. J. Branston and Mr. J. C. Loach.

The Minutes of the Sixteenth Anniversary Meeting held on April 11th, 1970, as published in Bulletin No. 65, pp 28-30 were taken as read and with the approval of the meeting were signed as correct by the Chairman.

Report of the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Saunders first referred to the sad loss the Circle had sustained by the passing of two members of long standing: F. Leonard Davis and R. W. Wells. Taking into account a record number of new members (55) and allowing for deaths, resignations and those whose subscriptions had been allowed to lapse the total membership at present is 302, an increase of 35. Due to the postal strike many subscriptions - mainly from overseas - are outstanding and in order that a *true* up-to-date List of Members is made available it will be included in the September Bulletin and *not* the June issue as has been customary for many years past. Mr. Saunders then referred to the Accounts for 1970 as published in Bulletin No. 68, pp 10/11 and invited questions on any item. He went on to explain that he deemed it necessary to transfer the sum of £175 from the Publications Account in anticipation of exceptional expenses in connection with Philymphia 1970. It was decided by the meeting that the Hon. Treasurer's action should be confirmed and a proposal to that effect was made by Mr. L. E. Britnor which was seconded by Mr. W. A. Townsend. In this connection it was agreed that as and when circumstances permitted sums should be transferred from the Main Account to the Publications Account until the refund of £175 had been effected. There being no other questions the adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mr. P. S. Forshaw and seconded by Mr. W. A. Townsend.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING (Cont.)

Report of Hon. Editor

Mr. Radford stated that he had now completed his first full year in office and he hoped that the mistakes that he had made had not marred members enjoyment of the Bulletin. He drew attention to the fact that the article on 'Why not collect Antigua?' by Mr. E. V. Toeg had been reprinted by Stanley Gibbons in Stamp Monthly.

He thanked members for their contributions to the Bulletin during the past year but the initial flood had now dried away to a trickle. During the past year little or nothing had been published on Bahamas, Bermuda, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Turks & Caicos Islands. As the width of type-setting on each page of the Bulletin had now been increased giving the equivalent of approximately two extra pages per Bulletin, there was plenty of space for collectors of the previously mentioned countries to report their findings.

He closed his report with the annual plea of the Editor for more contributions.

The adoption of this report with warm congratulations to Mr. Radford on his splendid first year of office was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Rose Titford.

Report of Hon. Librarian

Rose Titford stated that steady use continues to be made of the Library although obviously transit of books on loan came to a complete halt during the period of the postal strike. Not a week passes without some additions are made to the 'Scrap Book' and many members have borrowed sections dealing with their special interests. In view of the further heavy increase in postal charges - particularly where it is essential to send by REGISTERED post - which have to be borne by the borrower both ways. The minimum period for a book to be on loan is extended to one month from date of dispatch. In exceptional cases - providing there is no waiting list - this may be further extended at her discretion. She much regretted that it has not been possible to publish an up-to-date list of books in the library but this will be done as soon as circumstances permit. Meanwhile she is always happy to furnish any member with details of any books covering his (or her) specific interests for which a stamped addressed envelope will be appreciated.

The adoption of this Report was moved by Mr. L. E. Britnor and seconded by Mr. B. B. Benwell.

Report of Chairman - Publications Sub-Committee

Mr. L. E. Britnor in outlining the activities of the committee stated that it had not been possible to obtain any conclusive information from Mr. Marriott on his further book on Trinidad. In the meantime he (Mr. Britnor) had been working on the production of a book dealing with British West Indies Mail Services up to 1841. At present he was going into details of publication costs with Mr. Benwell so that he would be in a position to acquaint the main committee with the extent of the finance that would be required from the Publications Account. Mr. Britnor added that the format would be larger than the previous Circle publications, have more pages and conventionally bound rather than the loose leaf system previously employed. In proposing the adoption of the Report Mr. Saunders said he hoped that brief details would be made available for inclusion in the Bulletin and preparation of subscription forms at least three months and preferably six months before publication date. This was seconded by Mr. E. S. Forshaw.

53rd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

This is being held at NORWICH from June 15th-18th, 1971 and the Circle's delegates are Messrs. A. J. Branston and W. A. Townsend. It is hoped that a meeting of all interested in B.W.I. philately will be held under the leadership of Mr. W. A. Townsend.

Autumn Meeting

This will be held in the B.P.A. Board Room on September 18th. 1971, at 446 Strand, London, WC2R 0RA. It was suggested that all members attending should bring 9 sheets for display.

Eighteenth Anniversary Meeting

It was agreed that this should be held on Saturday, April 15th, 1972.

Election of Officers and Committee President:

Mr. Toeg was requested to go into an adjoining room and Mr. W. A. Townsend took the chair. He read out a passage of a letter Mr. Toeg had written to the Hon. Secretary wherein he mentioned he had completed his three-year term as President and fully appreciated that someone else should have the opportunity of being appointed. If, however, the members had no one else in mind he was prepared to carry on. Mr. Townsend said he had no hesitation in stating that Mr. Toeg's term as president had been a conspicuous success and he felt that members would be unanimous in supporting his (Mr. Townsend's) proposal for his re-election. This was seconded by Mr. Saunders and carried with acclamation.

On his return to the meeting Mr. Toeg was made aware of the warm response to the proposal that he serve a further term as President to which he replied stating that the Circle was firmly established due to the united work of all the Officers and Committee members over the years.

There being no nominations for the serving officers and the present holders being eligible and willing to continue it was proposed by Mr. B. B. Benwell that they be re-elected en bloc and this was seconded by Mr. F. D. FitzGerald. Similarly the existing members of the Committee were deemed to be re-elected on the proposal of the President which was seconded by Mr. R. Radford.

Election of Hon. Auditor

Mr. A. J. Branston having expressed his willingness to serve for a further term his re-election was moved by Mr. E. S. Forshaw and seconded by Mr. L. E. Britnor.

At the invitation of the President - Mr. Saunders in his capacity as Founder - presented Mr. B. B. Benwell with a brief case as a tangible expression of the members' appreciation of his 10 years service as Hon. Editor thus fulfilling a promise made when the Committee conferred upon him the honour of being the first Honorary Life Member of our Circle. Mr. Benwell suitably responded. The meeting closed at 5 p.m.

NOTES AND QUERIES

ANTIGUA

The Circle has received a request from the Rev. John Pollock who is writing a new life of William Wilberforce, for information about him and the Abolition of the Slave Trade mentioned in various letters of the Codrington Correspondence sold by Robson Lowe's in 1951.

In Robson Lowe's book *The Codrington Correspondence* ten such letters are listed. Rev. Pollock wishes particularly to get the full relevant passages of the following four, written by Langford Lovell in Antigua. The numbers are those given in Mr. Lowe's book:

Letters 91 (8th April 1792), 138 (11th June 92), 140 (31st July 92) and 218 (16th July 92).

If any members have any of the above letters currently in their possession or know their present whereabouts and are willing to help Rev. Pollock perhaps they will kindly get in touch with him direct. His address is:

Rose Ash House,
South Molton.
Devonshire.

Any references to Wilberforce or the Abolition in any other West Indian correspondence in members possession would also be welcome by the Rev. Pollock.

BRITISH GUIANA (Guyana)

In answer to Mr. Freeland's query in Bulletin No. 68. p 3, the history of the "Marine Detachment" overprint on the 1938 set is still a mystery.

It is a bogus issue and this is borne out by the fact that it is always found mint - never used, let alone on cover.

I have a set of seven, the 3c and 12c overprinted in black and the 1c, 2c, 6c, 36c and \$1 in red.

W. A. Townsend

WHY NOT COLLECT BRITISH GUIANA?

It was during my schooldays that I was fascinated by the stamps with the sailing ships on them. Little did I think that this sowed the seeds which grew into a lifetime study of the stamps and Postal History of British Guiana.

The scope is endless and although looked upon as an "expensive" country it need not be provided that one does not aspire to the great rarities.

A collection of the stamps could usefully commence with the 1853-1860 imperforate lithographed issues with their interesting retouches.

The 1860-75 issues were the first to be perforated and are full of interest. The plating of these stamps has fascinated philatelists for many years. C. J. Phillips drew attention to this interesting field for study and first A. P. Castle, and then Dr. J. Morton Evans and latterly myself devoted ourselves to this matter. It has not been completed and there are still problems to solve. Stamps are found bisected up to 1861 but were forbidden after that date. However they were bisected and trisected up to about 1870, and were passed by the authorities. The 1862 provisional issue appeared in three values with 24 stamps to a sheet. Like all the previous provisionals they were initialled by a member of the Post Office staff as a safeguard against forgery. For the 4 cents blue an ink was used which turned white in a chemical action with the paper. Rouletted 6 they were difficult to separate and stamps with roulettes on all four sides are very scarce. When the 1876 De La Rue issue arrived some sheets of stamps remained in stock without initials or roulettes. Years later these appeared on the market and are considered collectable items. The design was crude and the stamps can be plated quite easily.

De La Rue obtained the contract to supply stamps in their fugitive ink and on 1st July 1876 their first effort appeared, on Crown CC paper.

In the period 1878-81 there was a spate of provisional issues due to various causes. In one case the 1 cent and 2 cents stamps in stock have been affected by the humidity and became a solid mass.

The 1882 provisional issue was perforated with the word "Specimen" as a safeguard against forgery and so became the only "Specimen Stamp" to be available for postage! The first printings were 3 x 4 and the sheets had to be separated into two halves as the perforating machine could not reach the two centre stamps. However the format was then altered to 2 x 6.

In 1888 a unified Postage and Revenue series appeared and the only point of interest is the surcharge "2" in red on the 2 cents value. This was because it was found that the 2 cents could be altered to 72 cents by printing the figure 7 in front of the 2. In the 4 cents and 4 dollar values one stamp in six has a larger 4.

The 1897 Jubilee issue came into use in 1898 as one of the priming plates cracked and caused delay in the production of the stamps. This issue was unpopular owing to its larger size and the 5 cents, 10 cents and 15 cents values remained in stock. They were surcharged 2 cents as there was a considerable usage for this value. Inverted and double surcharges are scarce and desirable items. Around 1913 a notice was sent to all colonies stating that it was desirable that the effigy of the monarch should appear on all stamps. British Guiana compromised by adopting a design which included both the ship emblem and the head of King George V.

From 1931 many pictorial designs appeared and they make a very attractive showing.

The Pre-adhesive period is interesting with the various types of hand-stamps which were used and they are not expensive.

British Guiana is the only colony to have its own stamps before the stamps of Great Britain were used around 1858. The cancellation A03 was used at Georgetown and A04 at New Amsterdam. The latter is well worth acquiring in good condition. Official stamps were only in use for three years from 1875 and are quite scarce although one should beware of forged overprints.

BRITISH GUIANA (Cont.)

In the De La Rue issues a good showing can be made of stamps with the various plate numbers.

Colour trials exist of Gibbons type 30 and look most attractive. They are found in 1 cent and 4 cents denominations.

Cancellations are a subject in themselves and the scope is endless from the early "code marks" to the various village marks some of which in the author's collection are believed to be unique.

Travelling Post Office marks abound as the main means of communication is by river. There are over 20 different routes each with its distinctive nomenclature.

Altogether British Guiana is a most satisfying country to collect and full of interest.

W. A. Townsend

BRITISH HONDURAS

The following check list of current Post Offices has been provided by Mr. G. E. Jones.

BELIZE DISTRICT

G.P.O. Belize City.

Sub-Post Offices at: Caye Caulker. Crooked Tree, Double Head Cabbage, Freetown Sibun, Burrell Boom, Gales Point, Gracie Rock, Hattieville, Ladyville, Maskall, Rockstone Pond, San Pedro Ambergis Caye, Sand Hill, Santana.

COROZAL DISTRICT

Sub-Post Offices at: Corozal Town, Caledonia, Libertad, Louiseville, Sarteneja, San Narciso.

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

Sub-Post Offices at: Orange Walk Town, Hill Bank, San Estevan.

CAYO DISTRICT

Sub-Post Offices at: San Ignacio, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Central Farm, Roaring Creek, San Luis, Unitedville, Belmopan, Succotz.

STANN CREEK DISTRICT

Sub-Post Offices at: Stann Creek Town, Independence, Mullins River, Seine Bight, Sittle River, Pomona Stann Creek Valley, Middlesex Stann Creek Valley, Hoppkins, Pt. Placencia, Silk Grass

TOLEDO DISTRICT

Sub-Post Offices at: Punta Gorda Town, Barranco, Monkey River San Antonio.

JAMAICA

EL from Kingston to London written 25th Feb. 1816. Fleuron hand-struck stamp for 31st March 1816. Foster type 3B.

It is interesting to note that this is a variant of 3B in that while the first two digits of the year plug are missing and the right hand day plug has been taken out as illustrated in Foster's Handbook, the month plug has been left in its original place as in type F3. I cannot find any trace of this variety in any of the literature available to me.

This letter was carried by the Packet "Princess Mary."

D. Woolfson

LEEWARD ISLANDS

BY AIR MAIL FROM THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

(Continued from page 18 Bulletin No. 68)

The rate to Colombia was increased from 1/7½ to 2/3½ by an announcement dated 29 October, 1931. This fee included delivery within that country by the Colombian domestic air mail service (SCADTA). On 12 November 1931, it was announced that air mail for the Falklands islands could be sent to Montevideo, Uruguay, for onward transmission by sea (air fee same as to Montevideo, viz: 3/1½ per half-ounce).

Due to the fact that payments for the conveyance of air mails were made in U.S. currency, movements in the dollar exchange resulted in the following upward rate changes, announced in the *Gazette* of 3 December 1931 :

Rate		Destination	
s.	d.		
0	8½	Group 1:	Leeward Islands (including British Virgin Islands), Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and Virgin Islands (U.S.)**
1	4½	Group 2:	British Guiana, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Dutch Guiana, Great Britain (via Miami, and from Miami by ordinary routes)**, Haiti, Jamaica, and United States**
1	9½	Group 3:	Bahamas, Canada, Curacao, Equador, French Guiana, Panama, and Venezuela
2	9	Group 4:	Bolivia, Brazil, British Honduras, Canal Zone, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Salvador
3	5	Group 5:	Argentine Republic, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay

**The special rate for the condition hereinbefore described per single asterisk was increased to 8½d.

Barely one week later the rates were again moved upward: the 10 December 1931 *Gazette* announced the following (with the "special rate" going to 9d):

Rate		Destinations	
s.	d.		
0	9	Group 1:	
1	6 (f)	Group 2:	
1	10½	Group 3:	
3	0	Group 4:	
3	7	Group 5:	

This last tabulation of rates is confirmed in its entirety by the *Leeward islands Post Office Guide* under the section entitled "Air Mail," dated 1 January 1932. However, two interesting points appear in this *Guide* which are not brought out in the previously mentioned documents. The first is that, in addition to specifying the rate to Great Britain as 1/6, the *Guide* also quotes rates to Great Britain via Puerto Rico or Trinidad as 9d in each case (with transmission from either of these countries to Great Britain being by "ordinary routes") (g). Secondly, the *Guide* states that "the rates to other countries via any country mentioned above (these countries 'mentioned above' being only those specified in Groups 1 to 5), including onward transmission by ordinary routes, are the same as to the intermediate country."

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

Whether the second of these points was in effect prior to the appearance of the 1 January 1932 *Guide* cannot be determined. The first point is a tricky one to analyse; it appears to have been in effect as early as 26 September 1929, due to the existence, per Comment (a), of the pair of covers to Puerto Rico, both franked with 9d, belonging to Mr. Larsen; and of Mr. Toeg's 9d cover to Trinidad. However, in the 1932 *Guide*, the 9d air rate, as are all air rates therein, is qualified as "being in addition to ordinary postage." This results in a total rate to England via Puerto Rico or Trinidad, as of a date at least as early as 1 January 1932, of 10½d for the first half-ounce.

The 10 December 1931 announcement (and likewise the rate schedule in the 1 January 1932 *Guide*) was amended by data published in the *Gazette* of 1 September 1932, and going into effect on that date. In this schedule the rates to each country were broken down to include letters (per half-ounce) and single post-cards; the letter rates remained unchanged from those in the *Guide*. Reply post-cards were admissible at the special rate for postcards upon being stamped with a double air mail fee.

Single Postcards		Rate		Destination
		Letters, etc., per half-ounces.		
s.	d.	s.	d.	
0	3	0	9	Group 1
0	6	1	6	Group 2
0	8	1	10½	Group 3
1	0	3	0	Group 4
1	3	3	7	Group 5

The "special rate" per this schedule was 3d for a single postcard and remained at 9d for a letter per half-ounce. However, a CS announcement dated 9 February 1933 deleted this entire "special rate" clause and its associated charges from the 1 September 1932 schedule.

From late November 1932 to early January 1934, a series of notices appeared with great frequency in the *Gazette*, advising of the constantly changing air mail rates from the Leeward Islands to certain destinations. For the sake of brevity I will group these countries as follows:

Group 6: Canada only

Group 7: Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and Trinidad

Group 8 (identical to Group 2): British Guiana, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Dutch Guiana, Haiti, Jamaica, United States, and Great Britain. (With respect to Great Britain, the rates specified are "via Miami, Florida").

A special reduced rate was allowed for air mail from the British Virgin Islands to the United States via St. Thomas. U.S. Virgin Islands. In this tabulation this rate is noted by #.

Gazette Date	Effective Date	Air Mail Fees			
		Single Postcards		Letters, etc., Postcards	
				per half-ounce	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
24 Nov 32	21 Nov 32				
	Group 6	0	8	2	0
	Group 7	0	4	0	9½
	Group 8	0	7	1	7
1 Dec 32	29 Nov 32				
	Group 6	0	9	2	1½
	Group 7	0	4	0	10
	Group 8	0	7	1	8
2 Mar 33	2 Mar 33(?)				
	Group 6	0	8	2	0
	Group 7	0	4	0	9½
	Group 8	0	7	1	7
4 May 33	1 May 33				
	Group 6	0	8	1	10½
	Group 7	0	3	0	9
	Group 8	0	6	1	6
11 May 33	10 May 33				
	Group 6	0	7	1	9
	Group 7	0	3	0	8
	Group 8	0	6	1	4
	#	0	4	0	10
6 Jul 33	29 Jun 33				
	Group 6	0	7	1	7½
	Group 7	0	3	0	7½
	Group 8	0	6	1	3
	#	0	3	0	7½
20 Jul 33	14 Jul 33				
	Group 6	0	6	1	6
	Group 7	0	3	0	7
	Group 8	0	5	1	2
	#	0	2½	0	7
3 Aug 33	28 Jul 33				
	Group 6	0	7	1	7½
	Group 7	0	3	0	7½
	Group 8	0	6	1	3
	#	0	3	0	7½
7 Sep 33	5 Sep 33				
	Group 6	0	6	1	6
	Group 7	0	3	0	7
	Group 8	0	5	1	2
	#	0	2½	0	7
16 Nov 33	15 Nov 33				
	Group 6	0	6	1	4½
	Group 7	0	3	0	6½
	Group 8	0	5	1	1
	# (h)	0	3	0	8
18 Jan 34	16 Jan 34				
	Group 6	0	5	1	3
	Group 7	0	2	0	6
	Group 8	0	4	1	0
	#	0	2½	0	7½

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

The 25th edition of the *Leeward Islands Post Office Guide*, issued on 1 October 1933, established the following air mail rates:

Single Postcards		Rate		Destination
		Letters, etc., per half-ounces.		
s.	d.	s.	d.	
0	3	0	7	Group 1***
0	5	1	2	Group 2
0	6	1	6	Group 3
0	10	2	4	Group 4
1	0	2	11	Group 5

The "special rate" still defined as listed under the 2 October 1931 announcement, reappears in this schedule. This rate remained at 3d per single postcard but dropped to 7½d per letter per half ounce.

Notice these three interesting points about this rate schedule:

1. During 1933 there was a general across-the-board drop in air mail fees to all destinations.

2. This is the first instance where the "special rate" does not completely agree with the Group I rate, and may have been the reason for omitting the U.S. Virgin Islands charge from the table proper (see footnote ***). It may also explain why the "special rate" clause was dropped earlier (on 9 February 1933) from the 1 September 1932 schedule.

3. Being dated 1 October 1933, this schedule includes and thereby confirms the rates specified in Groups 6, 7 and 8 and effective on 5 September 1933.

The *Leeward Islands Blue Book* for 1933 states that "air fee to Great Britain, via Miami and from thence by ordinary routes, is 5d for single postcards and 1/1 per letter per half-ounce." Thus, the Group 8 rates effective 15 November 1933 are verified. However, an apparent problem in semantics arises when we read further in this *Blue Book*: In it appears a statement specifying that "special rates on articles forwarded by air via St. Thomas", U.S. Virgin Islands, to the United States, or to other countries via the United States, are 3d for a single postcard and 8d per letter per half-ounce. "Now, this would also appear to confirm the "#" special rate (appearing beneath the Group 8 rates) effective 15 November 1933. But *that* particular special rate was defined as follows, and as stated *exactly* in the appropriate *Gazette* notices:

"Special rate for air mail from the British Virgin Islands to the United States via St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands."

This definition *does not* include the phrase ". . . or to other countries via the United States," as does the 1933 *Blue Book* statement, but it does include the qualification ". . . from the British Virgin Islands . . ." a phrase *not* appearing in the *Blue Book*.

The question arising here is: Are these two definitions attempting to say the same thing? It would appear so, if only for the reason that in this particular situation the rates given in each case are identical.

***The U.S. Virgin Islands rate was not included in this issue of the *Guide* except as defined under "special rate" conditions.

(continued on page 37)

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However, let us investigate further. The Blue Book for 1932 specifies the following air rates (in addition to regular postage): "To Great Britain via Miami, and from thence by ordinary routes:

Single Postcards: 7d

Letters, etc..per half-ounce: 1/7 "

To Great Britain via Trinidad, and from thence by ordinary routes:

Single Postcards: 4d

Letters, etc., per half-ounce: 9½d.

"To Great Britain via Puerto Rico. and from thence by ordinary routes:

(Same as for Trinidad above)

"To United States:

Single Postcards: 7d.

Letters, etc.. per half-ounce: 1/7 "

Depending on the exact issue date of the *Blue Book*, this data would validate Groups 7 and 8 of either the *Gazette* notice effective 21 November 1932 or that effective 2 March 1933(?). Fine. But this 1932 *Blue Book* goes on to say:

"Special rates (in addition to ordinary postage) on articles forwarded by air via St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, to the United States, or to other countries via the United States: Single Postcards: 4d

Letters, etc., per half-ounce: 11½d "

This is the same definition that shows up in the 1933 *Blue Book*. But notice that the first *Gazette* mention of the *other* definition - the one specifying the British Virgin Islands as a flight departure point - does not occur until 11 May 1933! And note also the strange 11½d rate, a rate that appears in no other documentation considered in this discussion.

For these reasons - the time lag and the odd ball rate - I would assume that the two definitions are not intended to be equal. As for the 11½d figure, I have no explanation for its meaning whatsoever. Comments from readers pertaining to this peculiar charge would be most welcome.

An announcement from the CS on 10 September 1934 advised that air mail service to Castries, St. Lucia, was to be discontinued effective with the plane leaving Miami on 13 September 1934.

A Post Office notice, dated 19 November 1934 and entitled "Air Mail Transmission via St. Thomas," advised that air mail correspondence from that date forward may be sent from any part of the Leeward Islands by sea to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, or to San Juan, Puerto Rico. for transmission from those points by air to Miami and to other places served by the air mail. The air mail fees for this service were given as 2½d for single postcards and 7½d per half-ounce for letters. It was emphasized that the air mail fees to other destinations were to remain the same as listed on page 7 of the *Leeward Islands Post Office Guide*, October 1934, but that the complete schedule of air mail fees was being revised.

The *Blue Book* for 1936 bears out the correct postage of 1/2 on Mr. Toeg's cover, dated 27 September 1935, from St. John's to the United Kingdom and mentioned on Page 12 of BWISC Bulletin 28. In this *Blue Book* the ordinary postage to the British Empire is given as 1½d. A Post Office notice in the *Gazette* of 31 January 1935 lists the

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

combined postage and air mail rate to Great Britain by air from Antigua as 1/2 per half-ounce: this establishes 1/0½ as the air mail rate. As a matter of interest, the following additional rates are given in the 31 January 1935 *Gazette*, and these rates are specified therein as also being listed in the 1 January 1935 edition of the *Leeward Islands Post Office Guide* (a publication which, unfortunately, I do not possess):

Air Rates (Postage and Air Mail Fee Combined)

	<i>By Air from Antigua</i>		<i>By Air from St. Thomas</i>	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Great Britain				
Postcards	0	5	0	5
Letters per half-ounce	1	2	1	0
Trinidad				
Postcards	0	4	0	4
Letters per half-ounce	0	8	0	8
United States				
Postcards	0	6	0	6
Letters per half-ounce	1	3	1	0
Canada (including transmission by Canadian air routes when available)				
Postcards	0	10	0	6
Letters per half-ounce	1	9	1	0

I have an air mail cover from St. John's to Chicago, franked with 1/3 and postmarked 25 June 1936. The validity of this rate is confirmed by the above table.

Since the ordinary postage rates specified in Leeward Islands SRO 1934, No. 35, were also in effect on 1 January 1935, we can now easily determine the air fees for the above destinations effective on that date:

Air Fee Only

	<i>By Air from Antigua</i>		<i>By Air from St. Thomas</i>	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Great Britain				
Postcards	0	4	0	4
Letters per half-ounce	1	0½	0	10½
Trinidad				
Postcards	0	3	0	3
Letters per half-ounce	0	6½	0	6½
United States				
Postcards	0	5	0	6
Letters per half-ounce	1	0½	0	9½
Canada				
Postcards	0	9	0	5
Letters per half-ounce	1	7½	0	10½

In a CS notice dated 19 May 1936, it was announced that the airship Hindenburg would make a total of ten round trip flights between Frankfurt, Germany, and Lakehurst, New Jersey, in 1936, per the following tentative schedule: Two flights each in May, July, August and October, and one each in June and September. The despatch of mail to Europe via the airship would be allowed at the additional charge of 2/- per half-ounce: letters were to be marked "Transatlantic by Hindenburg." I do not know if this fee was in addition to the normal combined ordinary and air charge, or was the total air charge in addition to the ordinary postage. However, according to the 1936

Blue Book, the normal combined ordinary and air fee rate per half-ounce from Antigua to the U.S. was 1/3. It would be interesting to learn, from persons possessing half-ounce or less covers sent on one of these flights via Hindenburg, what rates those covers carry. Based on proper interpretation of the 19 May 1936 announcement, such postage could be either 2/2½ or 3/3.

An air mail rate to Brazil of 1/4 for postcards and 2/9 per half-ounce for letters came into effect on 1 February 1937, per a *Gazette* notice of 28 January 1937.

In the 10 June 1937 *Gazette*, an announcement appeared advising that "postal packets for conveyance along the United States Air Mail route to Australia and New Zealand will be accepted in the Leeward Islands." The following air mail rates per half-ounce were fixed for the noted destinations:

s.	d.	Destination
2	2	Hawaii
3	1	Guam
3	6½	Philippine Islands
4	5½	Australia, China, Dutch East Indies, Hong Kong, Indochina, India, Japan, Macao, Malaya (Straits Settlements), New Zealand, Siam

An announcement in the *Gazette* of 1 July 1937 advised of the establishment of direct air mail service by PAA to Martinique and Guadelupe. An air mail fee of 8½d per half-ounce was stated for each destination.

Effective 3 February 1938, air mail service to Belize, British Honduras, was discontinued.

In the 17 March 1938 issue of the *Gazette*, the Leeward Islands Federal Secretary, Mr. J. D. Harford, announced that air mail service was inaugurated between Baltimore, Maryland, and Hamilton, Bermuda, as of 16 March 1938. An air mail fee of 8½d for single postcards and 1/9½ for letters per half-ounce was fixed on correspondence from the Leeward Islands to Bermuda via this connection. (A first flight cover for this route is identified as No. 26 in the Lockie-Cwiakala listing on Page 97 of BCPSG Journal W/N 49).

Effective 1 April 1938, and as announced in the 31 March 1938 *Gazette*, the following air postage rates came into effect:

Single Postcards	Letters, etc..	Destination
	per half-ounce	
d.	s. d.	
3	0 7	Trinidad
3	0 8	Guadelupe, Martinique
3	0 9	Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
5	1 0½	British Guiana, Jamaica
6	1 0	United States
6	1 0½	Canal Zone, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti., Panama, Venezuela
5	1 1½	Dutch Guiana, French Guiana
7	1 6	Bahamas

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

7	1	7½	Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador
7½	1	9	Colombia
8	2	0½	Brazil, Ecuador, Peru
9	2	1½	Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay
10	2	4½	Bolivia, Chile

The April 1938 Gazette announced the following air postage rates, also effective on 1 April 1938:

Single Postcards	Letters, etc., per half-ounce		Destination
d.	s.	d.	
5	1	0	United Kingdom
6	1	0½	Aruba, Curacao
6	1	3	Canada

COMMENTS

- (f) Based on this rate, Mr. Paton's 1/8½ St. John's-to-London cover, postmarked 27 January 1932 and described on Page 27 of BWISC Bulletin 25, is difficult to explain. The ordinary postage to England being 1½d per ounce, per the 1932 *Leeward Islands Blue Book*, this still leaves 1d unaccounted for.
- (g) If Mr. Paton's 1/8½ cover had weighed over half an ounce but not over one ounce, and had been sent to England from either Puerto Rico or Trinidad, the rate could have been made up as a double air fee of 1/6, plus a 2½d ordinary postage rate. However, this still doesn't quite jibe, since the letter's weight still would have required only 1½d ordinary postage. Perhaps his letter weighed more than one ounce (resulting in an ordinary postage charge of 2½d), but was only charged an air fee for a half-to one-ounce weight.
- (h) Not announced until *Gazette* of 23 November 1933.

G. W. Bowman
(to be continued)

Corrections

The Editor regrets that the following errors occurred in the first part of Mr. Bowman's article in the last Bulletin:-

Page 14, Row 19 of this contribution, the 6th word should be 'article.'

Page 15, 2nd from last paragraph, 4th line, the 6th word should be 'rate' not 'route.'

Both Mr. Ration's and Mr. Goldblatt's comments in Bulletin 65 were of particular interest to me as I already had in draft form some observations on the printings of SG.8 and on the Sexagenary issue. Now between them they have covered most of my points, presenting them more lucidly than I could have done.

Of the 1890 issue Major Hopkins wrote that "a large range of shades may be found for each value, indicating that many printings were made from each plate." As Mr. Goldblatt says the 5/- value was to all intents and purposes a revenue stamp. It is worth noting that none of the presidencies had felt the need for a postage stamp of denomination higher than 1/- before 1890. Certainly it was many years after 1890 before Gibbons started to price the 5/- listed in their catalogue.

Where the Sexagenary issue and its conflicting distributed and remaindered totals are concerned I would like to put forward a theory. This is that the **initial** distribution to the five presidencies before July 22nd was smaller than is usually supposed. I base this on a report from "The Philatelic Monthly and World" issued at the time which states that the Sexagenary overprints were "supposed to have been on issue one week from 22 July but the issue was exhausted in 65 minutes, the rush being very great . . . " It goes on to give the numbers sold:-

"St. Kitts each 30 sheets (14,400) of ½d, 1d, 2½d.

Antigua „ 10 „ (4,800) of 4d.

Dominica „ 3 „ (1,440) of 6d,7d.

Montserrat „ 1½ „ (720) of 1/-

„ 80 stamps (320) of 5/-

Virgin Is. Very small lot

Nevis not yet known."

Because of this report - which was also reproduced in "The London Philatelist" (6/268) - it may well follow that the Colonial Government, having failed to anticipate the rush of speculators and genuine collectors, had to order a second overprint so as to fulfil its official promise that the issue would be available for one week. In the circumstances it probably now over-estimated its requirements and made a second issue to the presidencies but kept a reserve stock in Antigua. That the second overprinting did not sell in the same way as the first was probably due to the unanimous scorn and derision heaped on the Sexagenary issue by the philatelic press in this country and by leading philatelic papers in other countries. The S.S.S.S. (Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps) was then active and influential and promptly placed the issue on its Black List indicating that it was entirely unnecessary for postal purposes and advising collectors to ignore it. Also and importantly the idea of defacing the Queen's head in her Jubilee year of all times gave offence to many living in the high noon of the Empire. Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal of October 1897 was one of many first-rank philatelic journals to join in the hue and cry: "The little attempt made here, to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee by squirting ink over her Majesty's face, is hardly worth alluding to. Nobody seems inclined to take any serious notice of the stamps which have been spoiled in this way, and we trust, for the sake of the good name of this group of Islands, that the matter will soon be forgotten. They were so unfortunate as to spill some ink over their stamps, and it is necessary for us to spill more ink over such a dirty little job."

My belief is that the second overprinting was in part supplied as a matter of urgency to the presidencies and in October 1897 the Leeward Islands Gazette published the totals of the two overprintings sold. The remainders offered for sale at the same time probably included some of the reserves held back in July and never needed. They were probably amongst those offered again in 1902. Possibly we shall never know the exact number overprinted of this 'dirty little job' but here I am, the sun long set on that empire, still spilling ink over it!

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

Note: Although the "Antigua Standard" of the time agrees with the Leeward Islands Gazette on the totals of the fd7d values distributed to the presidencies it differs slightly for the 1/- and 5/- as follows:

	Antigua	St Kitts/Nevis	Dominica	Montserrat	Virgin Is.
1/-	6.6 sheets	6.6 sheets	1 sheet	60 stamps	60 stamps
5/-	2.8 sheets	4.2 sheets	50 stamps	20 stamps	10 stamps

This gives a total of 1824 1/- and 920 5/-.

R. G. Carr

ST. LUCIA

From some unremembered source I gained the impression that circular date stamps with 'village' names in full were distributed in about 1910. This belief is refuted by the acquisition of a clear strike of M (for Micoud) as late as JA 17 (19)14, and an equally clear GROS ISLET (in full) for DE7 (19)05. Can any member supply some more definite facts about the appearance and disappearance of some of these elusive marks ?

S. Goldblatt

VIRGIN ISLANDS

The following date stamp had until recently escaped my notice, and perhaps that of others also.

A
TORTOLA
AP 11
88

The mark does not seem to have been used at any time to cancel stamps, only as a receiving mark. For a period it was in regular use: every cover dated between June 1886 and April 1888 which I have seen bears this strike, and information on earlier covers would be welcome. The stamp was probably replaced in May 1888, as it will be found that covers from this date on ordinarily bear Mr. Toeg's type (14).

S. Goldblatt

SG.46a. I am obliged to Mr. J. L. Frederick for showing me a complete pane of 60 stamps, SG.46, in which the "PENCF" error does not appear. My recent comments on this stamp are therefore wrong, and it follows either that the particular cliché broke or that it was replaced at some stage of the stamps printing history. This would bring the scarcity of the error into line with the large 'V' or the long-tailed 'S.'

Postmarks: I am grateful for Mr. Toeg's comments in Bulletin 65: and indeed I now have a genuine example of type (12) myself. It is on a Leewards 1/- value (SG.7), and is clearly, and intriguingly, dated Jy 22 97 - the first day of issue for the sexagenary set: but not perhaps in Tortola. I have also seen SG.46 bearing type (12) dated SP 9 01.

My other specimen, hitherto very suspect, and now demonstrably spurious, shows TORTOLA in thinner, smaller letters, and the 'A' position too low. The date reads JU

19 98: and I remember other examples showing the same 'year' - notably two 'used' copies of SG.42.

Type (15). The same recent purchase brought copies of Leewards SG.5 and 6 used in Tortola. Each has a clear type (15), with the date OC 13 97; and the type-setting appears identical with that of the obliteration of the Edwardian era.

It is disconcerting to find the use of type (14) interrupted, as above; but the interruption was freakish, or short-lived: my next example of type (14) in date is DE 6 97. An interesting date-stamp from the following year is also type (14). It is dated FE 14, with the year missing; '98 ' has been added by hand. *S. Goldblatt*

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It has been suggested that this Bulletin would be the most suitable place to publish a Bibliography of all the Philatelic Literature available on the British West Indies and the following list on Trinidad has been compiled by Mr. J. B. Marriott. If other members would like to submit similar lists to the Editor they will be collated and published in later Bulletins.

At this point it is worth mentioning the Second Edition of the Priced Guide to Philatelic Literature shortly to be published by the HJMR Co., P.O. Box 308, North Miami, Florida 33161, U.S.A., price \$5. This Guide has a fairly comprehensive listing of the West Indian Islands with prices in U.S. dollars for either original copies or in certain cases photo-copies of articles published in Magazines and Bulletins, etc. Included in the Guide are discount vouchers to the value of J5 so that you can recoup the initial outlay.

A source of literature in the U.K. is the auctions held by Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, Batley, Yorks.

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AUCTION GLEANINGS

STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS LTD.

Sale of October 15th-16th, 1970

Antigua: 1863-7, 1d dull rose, S.G. 6, horiz block of 12, o.g	£66
Bahamas: 1859, 1d, thin paper, S.G.2, used, B.P.A.cert.	£52
British Guiana: 1850-1, 4c orange, S.G.2, cut-round, tied on piece by -DEMERARA' June 28, 1851. c.d.s., initialled E.T.F.D., B.P.A. cert.	£150
do. 1850-1, 12c. pale blue, "2" of "12" with straight foot, S.G.7a, cut round (some faults). R.P.S. cert.	£300
British Honduras: 1888-9. 50c. on 1s., error "5c." S.G. 30a (perf. pulled at bottom), large part o.g.	£300
Jamaica: 1860-3. 1d. pale greenish blue, S.G.1b., block of 30 from L pane, wing margin at right, o.g.	£100
do. 1s. yellow-brown, S.G.6, block of 30 from top R pane; r.h. vert, block of 10 severed and rejoined, some hinge remainders: large part o.g.	£450
Nevis: 1866, 1s. yellow-green on laid paper, S.G.14a (sm. toning in lower right corner and tiny corner crease), used, R.P.S. cert.	£200
St. Christopher: 1882-90, 1s. bt. mauve, S.G.21, complete sheet of 20 with plate nos. & control, o.g.	£140
St. Lucia: 1863 (1d.), imperf., S.G.5a, unused	£42
St. Vincent: 1863-8. 1d. S.G.5, block of 15, full o.g	£60
Trinidad: 1860 (Mar.) 5th ptg., 1d. S.G.20, deep shade, sheet of 54 showing varieties in the stone, full o.g.	£210
do. 1879-82, CA, ½d., S.G.100, block of 9, large part o.g.	£440
Turks Islands: 1881, Setting 5, "½" on 1s., S.G.29. horiz. block of 30 (10 x 3) showing the 3 vars. in vert. strip repeated 10 times, (bottom perf. trimmed), o.g. Ex Charlton Henry	£380

Sale of December 14th-18th. 1970

Bermuda: 1938-53, 12/6d. grey and yellow 'lemon' shade, S.G. 120b. block of 4. o.g., B.P.A. cert.	£245
St. Kitts Nevis: 1923, Tercentenary, ½d to £1, S.G.48-60, large part o.g.	£170
St. Vincent: 1881, ½d. on half 6d., unsevered pair, S.G.33a, part o.g. B.P.A. cert.	£25
do. do. 1d on 6d., S.G.34, large part o.g.	£24
do. 1904-11, £1, S.G.93a. unhinged, e.g.	£50
Turks Islands: 1881, "½" on 1d, 8th setting, S.G.15. marginal block of 30 showing the varieties, unused.	£64
do. 1893, setting 3, ½d. on 4d. S.G.68. sheet margin strip of 6. o.g.	£52

Sale of January 20-23rd. 1971

Bermuda: 1922-34, 2/6d. 'grey-black and pale orange-vermilion on blue,' (light natural diag. gum crease), large part o.g.	£120
British Honduras: 1882-87, 6d. yellow, S.G.21, large part o.g.	£16.10
Dominica: 1903, 5/-, S.G.36, used	£23
Tobago: 1879, £1, S.G.6, good colour, slightly off centre, large part o.g. Diena cert.	£600

H. R. HARMER LTD.

Sale of December 7th-9th. 1970

Bahamas: 1861. Perf. 11 to 12½, the unissued 1d. lake, block of 4. var. Imperf. between both horizontally and vertically also at bottom, large part e.g. (1.h. vert. pair has two creases)	£245
do. 1918 (July), War Tax 1d., var opt. inv. S.G.105c, part o.g. (gum stained), B.P.A. cert.	£170
do. Special Delivery: 1916, 5d. var. opt. double, one inv., SG.51b, well tied to local cover and used with 1917 1d., dated May 1917 (a little stained)	£25
do. do. 5d. var. opt. inv. S.G.51c, well tied to local cover and used with 1912-19 ½d. (2) dated March 1919 (a trifle stained)	£24
Barbados: 1852-5. 2d, greyish state, S.G.4«, part o.g. vert. pair. B.P.A. cert.	£50
do. 1858, 1/- brown-black. S.G.12. lightly canc.	£64
British Guiana: 1850-1, 8c green, S.G.4, cut-to-shape, initialled "J.B.S." tied to sm. piece with indistinct Demerara pmk.	£52

Cayman Islands: 1908, 2½D. on 4d., S.G.24, used (slightly off centre, a little rubbed and tiny crease)	£135
Dominica: 1903, Two Die Proofs of centre vignette of the lower values, unglazed card, dated 11 and 12 Mar 02 and marked "BEFORE HARDENING" and "AFTER HARDENING" respectively.	£52 10
do. do. Five Die Proofs on glazed card comprising the frames of the 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 and 5/- values, last dated "10 MAR 03," others dated "3 JUN 03," all marked "BEFORE HARDENING"	£130
do. do. A similar lot of 5 proofs but dated a day later and marked "AFTER HARDENING" .	£130
Jamaica: 1903-04, 5d. grey and yellow, horiz. strip of 3, centre stamp the "SER.ET" error, S.G.36a, part o.g. (l.h. stamp damaged at lower left corner)	£100
do. 1919-21, 1/-orange-yellow and red-orange, var. frame inverted, S.G. 85a, large part o.g., from bottom of sheet (perf. missing at top left corner and a trifle toned)	£1,000
St. Lucia: 1860, 4d. blue, S.G.2, block of 4 from left of sheet, part o.g. (off centre)	£100
Virgin Islands: 1899, 4d. error "FOURPENCE," S.G.46a, lightly canc. (few perfs short at R). R.P.S. cert.	£90

Sale of January 4th-6th, 1971

Barbados: Britannia type Die Proof of 1/- in black, on India paper affixed to card	£52 10
do. 1875/8, Perf. 14, 1d. grey-blue, var. wmk. sideways, S.G.74u (sm. crease and few perfs. missing or short). This variety was first listed in 1962 as a result of this example being submitted for catalogue status (Auctioneers note)	£110
Barbados: 1878, 1D. on half 5/-, unsevered pair, S.G.86a surcharge reading up, used	£145
do. 1892, ½d. on 4d., surcharge double, in red and black, var. no hyphen, tied to small piece with normal ½d. on 4d. by c.d.s. of 1896. B.P.A.cert.	£105
Grenada: 1883, "POSTAGE" diagonally twice on each stamp, half of 1d. orange, unsevered pair, S.G.28a, part o.g., centred to lower left	£165
Montserrat: 1876, 6d. inverted "S" var., S.G.2b, unused. R.P.S. cert.	£170
do. 1884-5, 1d., inverted "S" var., S.G.7a. part o.g. R.P.S. cert.	£95
St. Vincent: 1861, rough perf.. 1d., well centred horiz. strip of 3, o.g. var. imperf. vertically, S.G.3a with double perf. at bottom	£85
Do. 1880, 1d. on half 6d., unsevered pair, light "A 10" pmk., S.G.28a	£125

BOURNEMOUTH STAMP AUCTIONS

Sale of February 5th, 1971

Bahamas: 1918, "WAR TAX," 1d. carmine, mint, var. watermark sideways	£40
Bermuda: 1865, 1/- green, variety, watermark inverted, o.g. (very slight stains on reverse)	£19
Cayman Islands: 1907 (Nov.) 1D. on 5/- fine used	£21
do. do. ID. on 5/- fine used	£25
Jamaica: 1903-04, SCA. 5d. grey and yellow, "SER.ET" error, mounted mint	£48

BULLETINS

Copies of back-numbers - some being XEROX copies - are obtainable (subject to being in stock) from the Hon. Secretary as follows:

Nos 1-7 (reprint in one cover) 75p (\$1.80) All others 25p each (60c) each

'CORDEX' instantaneous Self Binders each holding 20 issues can be supplied at 75p each. (\$1.80).

POSTAGE is extra in all cases.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

It is a matter of some regret that the customary List of Members is not included in this issue. Although the postal strike ended some time ago the after effects have been far reaching and the service - as I write these few words just before the Easter holidays - is not yet back to normal. With quite a number of subscriptions outstanding it will be readily appreciated that a list prepared now would not give a true picture of the position. All being well this omission will be put right in the September issue. I would I believe be correct in stating that there is not one of us who does not have in his (or her) collection a few treasured covers and it is often the case that the markings on the back are just as interesting - sometimes more so - as those on the front. To the collector who has a gift for sketching it is no problem to provide drawings of postmarks etc. on the album page. To those who are not so qualified - and I am one of them - I offer a tip. Using ordinary stamp mounts affix four covers (six if they are small) face downwards on a plain sheet of foolscap. An XEROX copy can then be obtained for a very modest sum and each one can be pasted on the album page below the relevant cover. You then have the whole picture at a glance. Since our last issue the following have been enrolled as members to whom I extend a warm welcome on your behalf: C. E. Cwiakala (U.S.A.), R. H. J. Fawcett (Lancashire), J. T. Gilmore (Hertfordshire), P. H. R. Jenkins (South Africa), Dr. O. Stubsgaard (Sweden), M. D. W. Vokins, M.A. (Gloucestershire) and G. S. Wright (Sussex). P.T.S.

Congratulations are offered to the following members on their awards at Stampex, 1971 -

Gold Award and Harmer Classics Trophy - B. E. Johnson

Silver Gilt Award: H. F. Deakin, 'Geranium'

Bronze Silver Award: S. J. Day, A. Latham

Bronze Award: S. J. Day

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